



## **2021 FUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan for TK-12 In-Person Instruction**

### **Supporting Documents**

**Updated March 18, 2021**

#### **Background Information:**

In May 2020, the District assembled a representative School Reopening Task Force committee to develop recommendations for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The task force was comprised of representative stakeholders with the purpose of developing school reopening recommendations. The task force recommendations contained within these documents are based on the guidance received from the California Department of Public Health, Tulare County Public Health and Human Services Agency, Center for Disease Control, California Department of Education, and the Tulare County Office of Education.

This document serves as a guide for a phased school reopening plan and does not preclude the district from modifying school structures based on new information from the Tulare County Public Health Agency or California Department of Public Health. The District School Reopening Task Force recommended a Hybrid Model for school reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The California Department of Public Health issued updated guidance for school reopening plans and for submission of County TK-6 Elementary School Waivers. The Task Force updated the School Reopening Plan approved by the Board of Education to reflect the updated waiver guidance and criteria. The district received state TK-6 Elementary School Waiver approval on November 6, 2020 from the California Department of Public and the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency. The District reopened for Hybrid in-person instruction for Hester & Snowden Elementary for grades TK-3 on December 1, 2020 and Freedom Elementary for grades 3-6 on December 8, 2020 as per state TK-6 Elementary waiver approval.

On January 14, 2021 the district received updated guidance from the California Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California 2020-2021 School Year. The School Reopening Task Force updated the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Plan and COVID-19 Safety Plan for In-Person Instruction to submit to the California

Department of Public Health, Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency Local Health Officer on February 1, 2021 as directed by the Safe Schools for All Plan and CDPH school guidance. The FUSD Board approved both the COVID -19 Safety Plan for In-Person Instruction and Cal/OSHA Prevention Plan for TK-6 schools on January 19, 2021.

On March 5, 2021 additional school guidance for the Safe Schools For All Plan approved by the state legislature and Governor Newsom extending the COVID-19 Safety Plan timelines and clarifying in-person instruction grade span requirements. **The task force updated the FUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan to include grades TK-12 and the Board approved the plan on March 23, 2021.** Tulare County COVID19 rates met the Red Tier metrics for grades 7-12 schools to reopen. Both Farmersville High School and Farmersville Junior High School are scheduled for reopening on a Hybrid learning schedule on April 6, 2021.

#### **Consultation with Labor Organizations:**

The District consulted with Farmersville Teachers Association and CSEA labor organizations in the development of the COVID-19 Safety Plan throughout the development of the plan. This included weekly School Reopening Task Force meetings and individual meetings with the Farmersville Teacher Association and California School Employees Associations (CSEA). Additionally, the District consulted with the Farmersville Management members during district management and principal meetings in the development of the plan.

#### **Consultation with Parents and Community:**

The District consulted with parents and community members in the development of the COVID-19 Safety Plan. This included consultation with parents who serve on the School Reopening Task Force, DELAC, and District Advisory Committee. The superintendent and school principals consulted with parents on school reopening during virtual forums, and during virtual Board meeting presentations where parents provided feedback on the plan. Parent surveys were administered on school reopening and the parent survey data was used in the development of the plan. Community members participated in the virtual forums and Board meetings and provided feedback on the plan. Individual meetings with city and community leaders including the City Manager, Farmersville Police Chief, and County Supervisor provided input in the development of the plan. Finally, Farmersville Board of Education members provided extensive feedback on the initial plan and granted approval on the final plan and TK -6 Elementary Waiver and COVID-19 Safety Plan

## **Communication of FUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan and Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Plan:**

The approved COVID-19 Safety Plan and Cal-OSHA Prevention Plan will be communicated to the school community in the following ways: posted on the FUSD District Webpage at <http://www.farmersville.k12.ca.us> and mailed out to all FUSD parents, and reviewed with parents during upcoming Superintendent and Principal Virtual Forums and Board of Education public meetings.

## **Task Force School Reopening Considerations:**

On March 24, 2021 Tulare County met the COVID-19 Red Tier metrics permitting grades 7-12 to reopen for Hybrid learning. Considerations for school reopening include the following: approval of California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Safety Plan and Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Plan, Tulare County moving from Purple Tier to Red Tier on the state monitoring list, State approval of the FUSD TK-6 elementary school waiver, parent education option survey results, staff survey results, School Reopening Task Force recommendations, and Board of Education approvals.

## **COVID-19 Safety Plan Overview:**

The School Reopening Task Force developed the COVID-19 Safety Plan by utilizing the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist published by the California Department of Public Health and school guidance from the Tulare County Health and Human Services staff in the development of the FUSD COVID-19 Safety Plan. The FUSD Safety Plan areas below are applicable to all TK-12 grade levels and all FUSD schools:

### **1. Stable Group Structures:**

- 1.1. The district will adhere to CDPH Social Distancing requirements both inside and outside of classroom. TK-12 Hybrid in-person learning will include a maximum 14 students per classroom and one teacher in stable groups. No mixing of stable TK-6 groups is allowed. In Grades 7-12, cohort mixing is not recommended by CDPH, but is permissible. Grades 7-12 Hybrid schedule reduces the number of cohort classes on a day by using a rotating A/B class schedule. School personnel will minimize contact at the school between students by maintaining 6 feet of physical distance between students and staff in class and reduce large student group gatherings by staggering lunch, recess, and release time schedules
- 1.2. Hybrid Scheduling - recommendations from CDPH cohort guidance requires as much as practicable to keep cohorts small/stable. If cohort schedule is done per the guidance, when a positive case is identified, the cohort can be quarantined without it affecting the other classes or rest of school. The smaller the cohorts, the number of students that are affected each time. A/B schedule with shared teacher is allowable per CDPH guidance. Cohorts that share the same teacher

/aide, there is an increased risk of exposure between A/B cohorts. In the event of a positive case in a cohort, teacher / aide will need to be quarantined which will affect staffing of the other cohort; if teacher /aide is positive, both classes will need to be quarantined.

- 1.3. Hybrid Schedule Grades TK-6: Mondays - Distance Learning (all students), Tuesday–Friday, (50%) students attend school each day either for in-person instruction Cohort or students participate in Distance Learning Cohort (50%)
- 1.4. Small Group Cohorts for grades 7-12. Maximum of 14 students with 2 supervising adults. No mixing of stable cohort groups is allowed. Small group cohorts for grades 7-12 will consist of targeted support for student academic needs.
- 1.5. The district will provide a TK-12 Distance Learning Option for parents who chose a full virtual program option for their student(s)
- 1.6. Social distancing requirements will be enforced on all buses (13 students maximum per bus).
- 1.7. Students will be seated from back-to-front per bus pick-up route to avoid passing by all in aisles; siblings may be seated together

## **2. Entrance, Egress and Movement Within a School:**

2.1. Signs, markings and, separation barriers will be placed on school grounds to ensure social distancing occurs in hallways, cafeterias, offices, and playgrounds, and athletic areas (CDPH)

2.3 Stagger recess and student breaks to limit chance of cohort mixing

2.4 Designated student drop-off areas will be designated by the school for parents to minimize contacts with students and staff and to ensure social distancing

## **2 Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:**

3.1 Per state mandate, masks or cloth face coverings are to be worn indoors at all times (including buses) and outdoors when unable to socially distance unless exempt. Medically exempt persons may use face shields and cloth drape covering (cloth drape to better catch droplets) as conditions allow. All students will be provided with classroom desk shields. Per CDPH, mask or cloth face coverings are required for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up except those with medical exceptions. The district does require masks or cloth face coverings in TK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade; a face shield preferably with cloth drape may be an option. Speech therapy may be allowed to temporarily switch to face shields with cloth drape during lessons with social distancing in place. Masks or cloth face coverings may be removed indoors for eating and drinking only (brown paper bags with student name will be used for storage of face masks). Students and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before or after mask removal.

- 3.2 Parents will be encouraged to provide their student(s) with a clean and washable cloth face covering daily. The school will provide students with a face covering when students forget to bring their own
- 3.3 Staff is required to wear cloth face covering and wear PPE equipment as applicable during their work day (CDPH). Staff PPE equipment will be supplied by the district. Failure to wear appropriate PPE equipment will result in a warning by school administration
- 3.4 The district will provide training for staff, students, and parents on social distancing requirements, face coverings, and model hand washing techniques using online COVID-19 training videos and provide in-person training by Nurse
- 3.5 An isolation room will be designated at each school for student or staff member identified with COVID-19 symptoms. PPE equipment will be provided for any staff member evaluating / monitoring in isolation room: at a minimum N95 or surgical mask, face shield, gloves, gown as needed. N95 preferred to surgical mask if available but do shortage, CDC has determined surgical mask sufficient and supply should be prioritized for aerosolizing procedures like nebulizing treatments.
- 3.6 Students will adhere to all district COVID-19 health and safety behavior expectations including the wearing of cloth face coverings, masks, or face shields, and maintaining social distancing. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in progressive discipline actions. Continued failure to adhere to these health and safety expectations may result in revocation of in-person school privileges. Students with disabilities will be progressive discipline actions will assessed on a case-by-case basis factoring in their specific disability and IEP plan goals and objectives. A Distance Learning option will be provided for students who struggle with wearing mask, need breathing breaks or other interventions, and need constant reminders

#### **4 Health Screenings for Students and Staff :**

4.1 The district will prescreen all students and staff with daily touch less thermometer temperature health checks for COVID-19 symptoms before entering school campus (CDPH):

4.2 Symptomatic staff and students prescreening includes all school staff and students will be prescreened daily for COVID-19 symptoms using a screening checklist form that includes the following COVID-19 symptoms: Staff or students with these symptoms may have COVID-19 and will be isolated from others:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

4.3 Students and staff will also be prescreened for any recent exposure or known contact with anyone sick with COVID-19 or anyone in the home sick and awaiting test results

4.4 Schools will set- up multiple gates of school entry for school teams to prescreen students for temperature checks to reduce student contact, employees who prescreen students are required to wear surgical mask, face shield and gloves. Students will exit school from the same gates they entered from

4.5 Out of caution, anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 should be treated presumptively as if it is COVID-19 until it is ruled out. Stay home in isolation and recommend testing as soon as possible. Any household contacts in school, such as siblings or relatives, should quarantine until a negative test result is confirmed. If the test is negative, they can return per usual school illness protocol (typically at least 24 hours without fever, vomiting, diarrhea). If the test is positive: they should isolate and return when CDC criteria is met (at least 10 days have passed from symptom start, symptomatic improvement, and no fever in a least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicines). If a test is refused or not done: recommend isolating for 10 days as above and return when CDC criteria is met or a doctor's note (i.e. if symptoms from a chronic known condition, for example) permitting the individual to return to sooner than the 10 days per usual school illness protocol.

4.6 Isolation: a student and staff member returning from a positive test: CDC criteria are used to determine when someone is "cleared" from isolation requires that 10 days have passed since symptoms started, symptoms have improved overall, and no fever for 24 hours. (If someone has not had any symptoms, then the test date is the isolation date). Some people take longer to recover than others and some people may need a note from their doctor before they are able to come back, depending on tier personal health history. Retesting is no longer recommended. Schools may use time-and symptoms-based criteria with a doctor's note, public health clearance, or school nurse clearance.

4.7 Exposure / Quarantine: a student or staff member may return from after an exposure /quarantine: high risk contacts quarantine 14 days after the last exposure. It is recommended all high-risk contacts get tested. If anyone has symptoms, they should test ASAP; otherwise testing at the end of quarantine is recommended (to rule out asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic infections).

4.8 Students will be prescreened with temperature health checks prior to boarding bus; parent /guardian are required to remain at bus pick-up location until student is cleared to board bus

**5.0 Healthy Hygiene Practices:**

- 5.1 Hand washing time will be built into the school day for students and staff, hand sanitizers will be provided in every classroom and hallways (CDPH), teachers will ensure that all students are required to sanitize hands when entering and exiting classrooms
- 5.2 The district will provide training for staff, students, and parents on social distancing requirements, face coverings, and model hand washing techniques using online COVID-19 training videos and provide in-person training by Nurse
- 5.3 The district will install no-touch towel dispensers in all staff restrooms, hand sanitizer dispensers are installed in every classroom and hallways on all school campuses (CDPH)
- 5.4 Ionizers have been installed in all air-conditioning units districtwide. Ionizers are anti-virus devices that breakdown viruses and circulate purified air. The district will optimize ventilation by allowing fresh air to circulate as per the CDPH guidance.
- 5.5 Portable hand sanitizer stations will be placed in identified areas for students and staff for hand washing including farm, athletic fields, etc.) (CDPH)
- 5.6 Classrooms, school restrooms, food eating areas, and playground equipment will be cleaned and disinfected daily
- 5.7 Mondays will be designated as school deep cleaning days for custodial staff at all schools (with no students present). Custodial staff will sanitize and disinfect classrooms at the end of the school day daily.
- 5.8 Food Service staff will use gloves, face coverings, and social distance for the preparation and distribution of meals
- 5.9 No outside food will be permitted on school grounds due to health compliance regulations (student packed lunches from home are permissible)
- 5.10 Parents will be encouraged to provide students with a spill-proof refillable water bottle daily as students will not be permitted to use drinking fountains. Water refillable stations will be available at all schools sites. Water will be provided for students who forget to bring refillable containers. Water filling stations will be sanitized daily.
- 5.11 Staffs break rooms and lunch times are considered exposure risks, same infection preventative measures apply to adults. This includes requiring staff to maintain social distancing, wearing of masks, and reducing congregating in staff lounge areas etc.
- 5.12 There will be no sharing of school supplies by students or staff (CDPH)

- 5.13 Custodial staff will sanitize classrooms and high touch student and staff areas daily (CDPH), anti-virus foggers and cleaning solution that meet CDPH sanitation requirements will be used to clean all schools
- 5.14 All staff will assist with daily sanitizing of all school office equipment including office copy and fax machines etc. after use
- 5.15 All classrooms and offices will be provided with classroom disinfectant supplies (Kit) for staff use that meet CDPH guidance, shared space will be disinfected after use

## **6.0 Identification and Tracing Contacts:**

6.1 The District Nurse will serve as the lead for the District and LVN/ Health Techs will serve as co-leads at each school (one per school). The District Nurse will serve as the point of contact for staff and families for all COVID-19 positive cases, adhering to all contact tracing protocols. Both the District Nurse and Health Techs at each school have completed Contact Tracing training provided by John Hopkins University and Tulare County. Contact tracing includes: identify contacts; within 6 ft. prolonged period of time; unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions of the confirmed person; identify exposure locations; conduct risk assessment; high risk: 14 day quarantine; low risk: remain at school and monitor symptoms; take action – confirmed positive: isolate, high risk: quarantine, low risk: monitor symptoms. In addition, all school administrators, District Nurse and Health Techs have received Contact Training from Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency. Please be advised that use of face masks or cloth face coverings by either party does not deem them low risk for the purpose of exposure risk assessment (though strongly recommended and good preventative practice just like hand washing). Please be advised that the 15 minutes of exposure can be cumulative and there may be instances where the entire cohorts are recommended for quarantine

6.2 Identification of COVID-19 symptoms - all staff have been trained to use a screening checklist form that includes the following COVID-19 symptoms: Staff or students with these symptoms may have COVID-19 and will be isolated from others:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



6.3 The School Nurse serves as the district lead and communicates directly with the Tulare County Health and Humans Services Agency for reporting COVID-19 positive cases and addressing contact tracing questions.

6.4 The district adheres to all FERPA & HIPAA privacy requirements in the communication of individual COVID-19 cases involving students, staff, and parents.

### **7.0 Physical Distancing:**

7.1 Signs, markings and, separation barriers will be placed on school grounds to ensure social distancing occurs in hallways, cafeterias, offices, and playgrounds, and athletic areas (CDPH)

7.2 Student and teacher desks will be spaced 6ft distance apart in all classrooms to meet social distancing requirements. Desk shields will be provided for all students and staff work stations. Desk shields do not replace need for 6ft distancing between desks but may be used in addition to meeting social distancing requirements.

7.3 Designated play areas will be assigned for each cohort of students

7.4 Schedules will be staggered to ensure 6 feet social distancing occurs in cafeterias or outdoor designated eating areas

7.4 Lunch will be eaten in designated eating areas including the cafeteria, gymnasium, or designated outdoor areas and will adhere to social distancing requirements

7.5 Grab-and-go sack lunches will be provided to students as they leave campus and will include prepackaged breakfast and lunch food

7.6 Eating in classrooms and outdoors is encouraged as weather permits with social distancing in place to reduce cohort mixing and congregating in cafeterias, waiting in lines etc.

7.7 Parents and school visitors are required to maintain social distancing requirements and wear required face mask coverings while visiting school at all times

7.8 Parents are not permitted on campus or to exit vehicles during pick-up and drop-off of students

7.9 Parents and school visitors are required to maintain social distancing requirements and wear required face mask coverings while visiting school at all times

### **8.0 Staff Training and Family Education:**

8.1 The district will provide training for staff, students, and parents on social distancing requirements, face coverings, and model hand washing techniques using online COVID-19 training videos and provide in-person training by Nurse

8.2 The Superintendent and Principals will host parent forums to communicate the importance of social distancing, hygiene, and the wearing of face masks as effective mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

8.3 The Superintendent will also send out regular parent updates on Parent Square and social media to focus on the importance of COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

### **9.0 Testing of Staff:**

9.1 Symptomatic Testing - COVID-19 free testing will be provided for any student or staff member who has been referred by the Nurse for COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed by a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual, the nurse follows up on each individual referred for COVID-19 testing.

9.2 Surveillance Testing: School personnel are essential workers, and staff includes teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, or any school employee that may have contact with students or other staff. School districts and schools shall test staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. District staff members will have the opportunity regularly to be tested for COVID-19 at the expense of the District if they chose to do so. The District will recommend testing frequency includes testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff is tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing all staff over time per CDPH Reopening Framework document. The district has contracted with HealthWise Clinic Testing Services and will pay for on-site testing for employees at a cost of \$83 per school employee.

9.3 Staff identified with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated from others. The district will follow Tulare County Public Health Agency guidelines for contact tracing and school quarantine procedures if a symptoms or a positive case is confirmed.

9.4 Response Testing – once a confirmed positive COVID-19 case has been identified in a stable group by the school nurse, response-based free testing will be provided by the district for symptomatic individuals or for asymptomatic individuals with known or suspected exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19.

### **10.0 Testing of Students:**

10.1. Symptomatic Testing - COVID-19 free testing will be provided for any student or staff member who has been referred by the Nurse for COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed by a confirmed COVID-19 positive individual, the nurse follows up on each individual referred for COVID-19 testing.

10.2 Students and staff will be provided with free Valencia Lab testing for COVID-19 via a self-administered test for students identified with COVID-19 symptoms and paid for by the district at a cost of \$23 per student test. Parents and staff will be provided training

on the COVID-19 self-administered COVID-19 test. Students may possibly return to school in the case of a negative test and 24 hours after fever is resolved and symptoms are improving.

10.3 Students identified with COVID-19 symptoms will be isolated from others in a school isolation room until parents are able to pick up students, schools will follow Tulare County Public Health Agency guidelines for contact tracing and school quarantine procedures if symptoms are identified or a positive case is confirmed.

10.4 Response Testing – once a confirmed positive COVID-19 case has been identified in a stable group by the school nurse, response-based free testing will be provided by the district for symptomatic individuals or for asymptomatic individuals with known or suspected exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19.

10.5 Asymptomatic Testing- the district will test students periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. Students will have the opportunity regularly to be tested for COVID-19 at the expense of the District if parents chose to do so. The District will recommend testing cadence based a sample of students or staff for surveillance testing either monthly or every other week.

#### **11.0 Identification and Reporting of Cases:**

11.1 As required by the California Department of Public Health, the district shall notify the Tulare County Health Officer of any known case of COVID-19 among students or staff who was present on campus within 10 days preceding a positive COVID-19 test

11.2 The district nurse will report the contact information to the Local Health Officer by telephone within 24 hours once the district is made aware of the new case.

11.3 The district is required to adhere to all FERPA & HIPAA privacy requirements in the communication of individual COVID-19 cases involving students, staff, and parents.

#### **12.0 Communication Plans:**

12.1 The COVID-19 Safety Plan and Cal-OSHA Prevention Plan will be communicated to the school community in the following ways: posted on the FUSD District Webpage at <http://www.farmersville.k12.ca.us> and mailed out to all FUSD parents, and reviewed with parents during upcoming Superintendent and Principal Virtual Forums and Board of Education public meetings

12.2 The Superintendent will communicate the COVID-19 Safety Plan and Cal/OSHA to the school community by sending out parent letters, using social media Parent Square, and providing regular updates to school community stakeholder meetings.

#### **13.0 Consultation:**

13.1 The District consulted with Farmersville Teachers Association and CSEA labor organizations in the development of the COVID-19 Safety Plan throughout the development of the plan. This included weekly School Reopening Task Force meetings and individual meetings with the Farmersville Teacher Association and California School Employees Associations (CSEA). A district MOU was signed with the Farmersville Teachers Association. Additionally, the District consulted with the Farmersville Management members during district management and principal meetings in the development of the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

13.2 The District consulted with parents and community members in the development of the COVID 19 Safety Plan. This included consultation with parents who serve on School Reopening Task Force, DELAC, District Advisory Committee. The superintendent and principals consulted with parents on school reopening during virtual forums, and during virtual Board meeting presentations where parents provided feedback on the plan. Parent surveys were administered on school reopening and parent survey data was used in the development of the plan.

13.3 Community members participated in the virtual forums and Board meetings and provided feedback on the plan. Individual meetings with city and community leaders including the City Manager, Farmersville Police Chief, and County Supervisor provided input in the development of the plan. Finally, Farmersville Board of Education members provided extensive feedback on the initial plan and granted approval on the final plan and TK -6 Elementary Waiver and COVID-19 Safety Plan.